

1.

BARROWFORD URBAN DISTRICT

COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

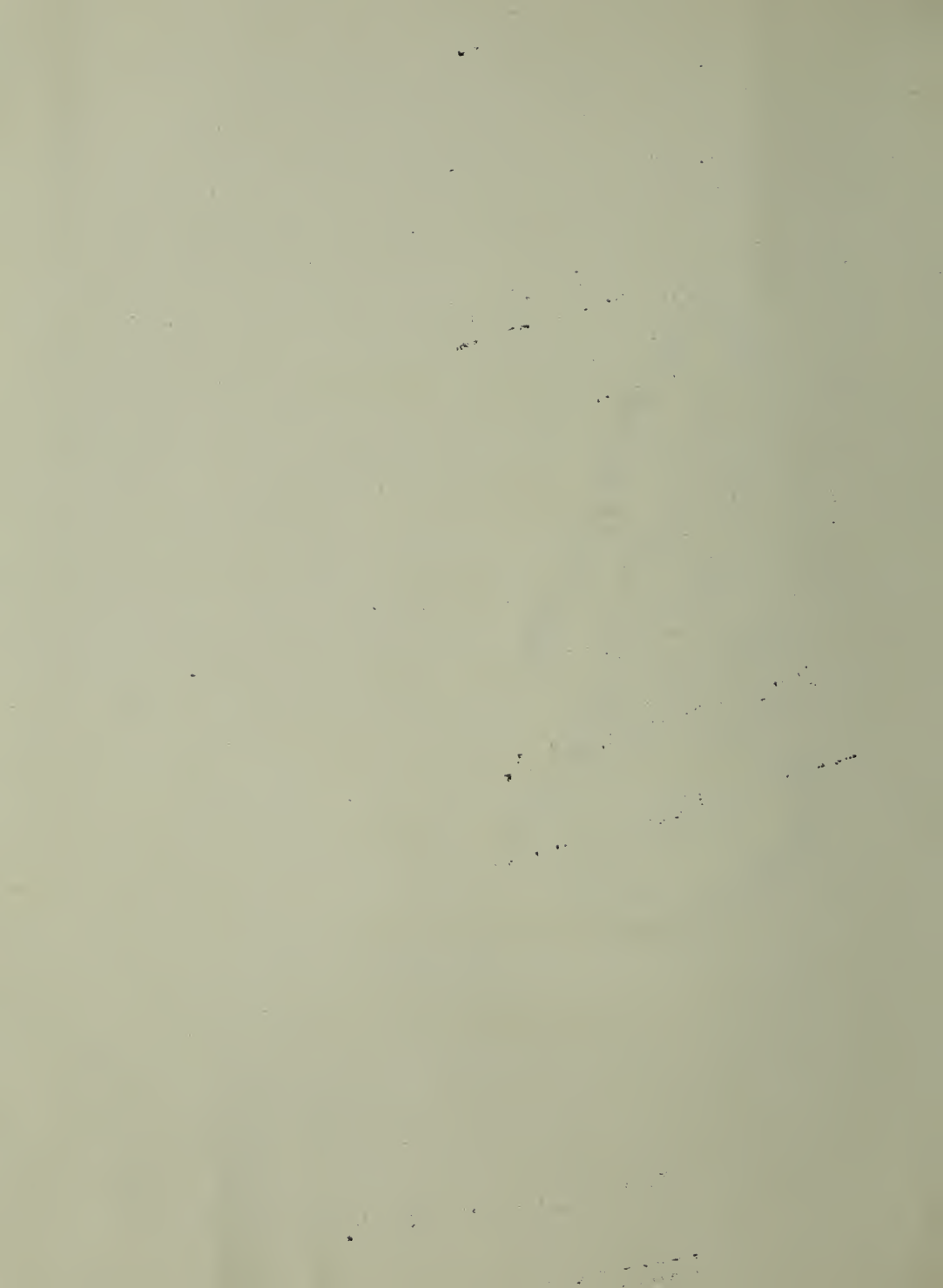


MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st December, 1947.

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2.

BARROWFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Acting Medical Officer of Health (to 30/6/47)	R.E. Robinson, M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
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Medical Officer of Health (from 1/7/47)	Edward Lee, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
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Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector:

F. Highfield, Cert. S.I., P.A.S.I.,
M. Inst. M. and Cy.E.

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3.

Public Health Office,
21, Carr Road,
NELSON.

February, 1949.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Barrowford Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Owing to changes of administration, and also of staff, the preparation of the Annual Report for Barrowford for the year ended 31st December, 1947, has unavoidably been delayed.

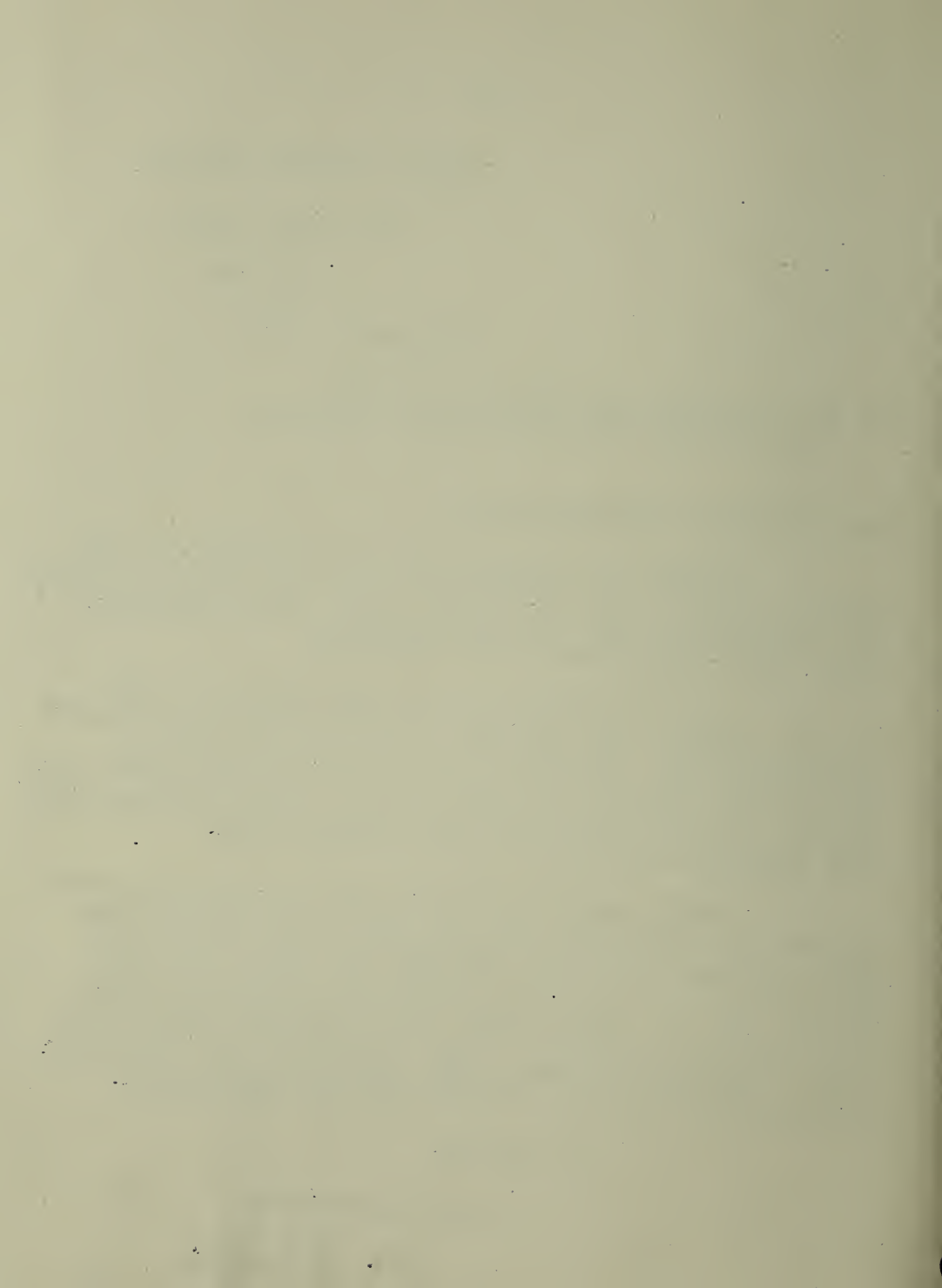
On its completion it has fallen to my lot to present the report, and in doing so I would mentioned that whereas I was acting as Medical Officer of Health on your behalf for the first six months of the year, in the latter half of the year the position was held by Dr. Edward Lee.

Both myself and Dr. Lee wish to place on record our appreciation of the co-operation and help we have received during the year from the Members of the Council, from you esteemed late Clerk, Mr. A. Armistead, and from your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector Mr. Highfield, along with other members of the staff carrying out duties in connection with the Public Health Department.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

R.E. Robinson.



Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres	1387
Population - Census 1931	5299
Registrar General's Estimate of Population mid 1947	4680
Number of inhabited houses:--	
(a) Census 1931, . . .	1602
(b) End of 1947 according to Rate Book	1748
Rateable Value	£28,357
Sum represented by a penny rate	£109

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

No outstanding changes have occurred and the social conditions remain as reported in previous years. Cotton and silk weaving with trades allied directly therewith form the staple industry of the district.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Males	Females	Total
Live Births - Legitimate	27	34	61
Illegitimate	2	1	3
<u>Total</u>	29	35	64

Still Births -	Nil	Nil	Nil
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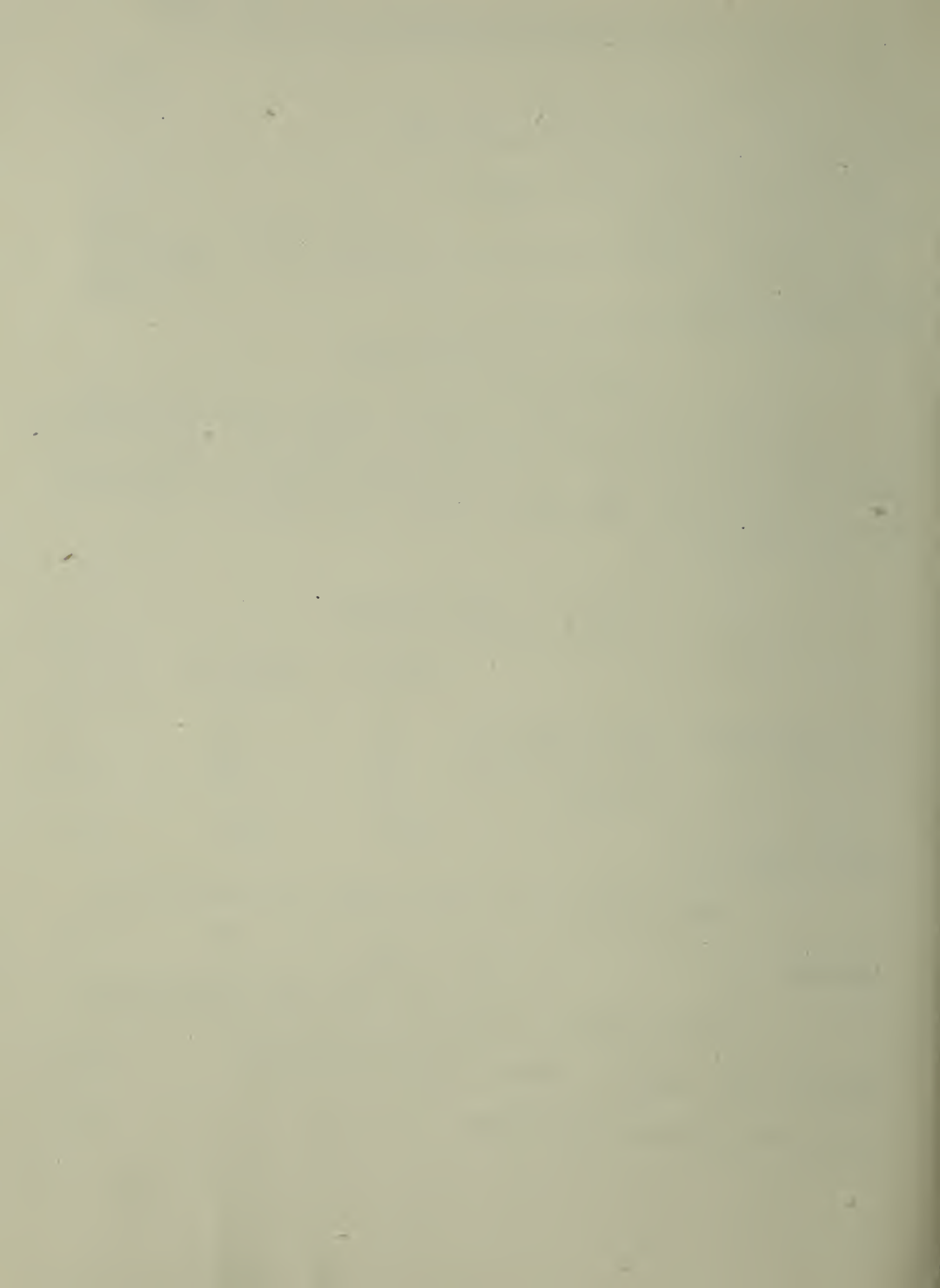
Birth Rate 13.6 per 1000 of population.

Deaths -	46	38	84
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Death Rate 17.9 per 1000 of population.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	Nil
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Infantile Mortality Rate	Nil
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Maternal Deaths	Nil
Maternal Death Rate	Nil
Zymotic Death Rate	Nil

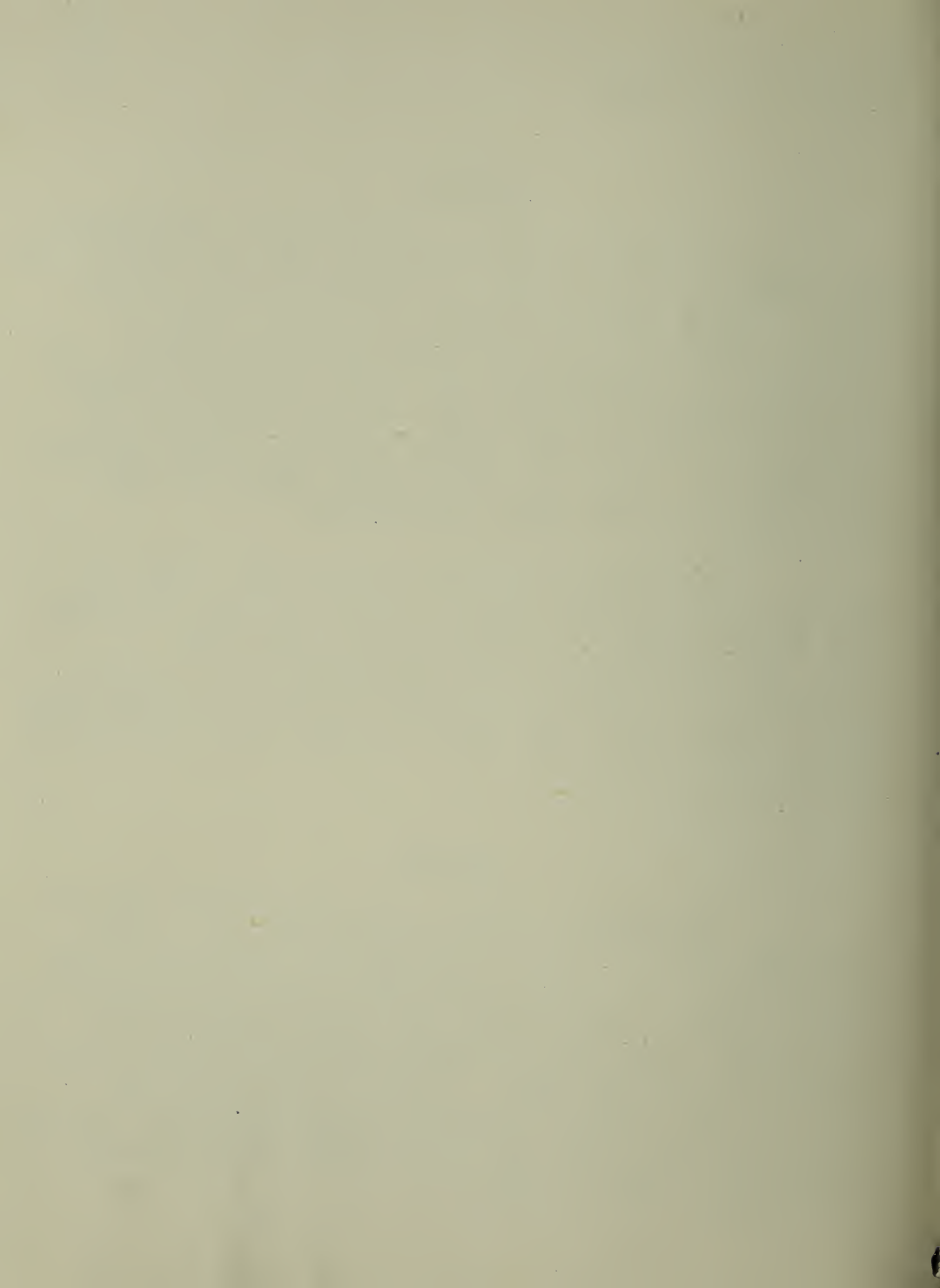
BIRTHS.

During the year 41 births were registered as having occurred in Barrowford, and of these there were 3 which appertained to non-residents of the area. There were, however, in other areas 26 births registered in which the parents were residents of Barrowford and these figures give the corrected total for the year of 64 births. The birth rate of 13.6 per 1000 of population is an increase of 1.7 on the birth rate for 1946, and an increase of 1.1 on the mean birth rate for the five years 1942 - 1946, inclusive.

Included in the 64 births are three illegitimate births, these representing 4.7% of the total births and giving an illegitimate birth rate for the year of 0.64 per 1000 of the population. In 1946 the corresponding figures were illegitimate births 8.6% and the illegitimate birth rate 1.07. No still births were registered during the year.

DEATHS.

63 deaths occurred in Barrowford during the year but one of these deaths was of a non-resident of the area. 22 deaths, however, took place in other areas of persons who were classed as Barrowford residents, and these figures give a corrected total of 64 deaths (29 males and 35 females) for the year. This gives a death rate of 17.9 per 1000 of population, and shows an increase of 1.9 on the death rate for 1946, and an increase of 2.9 on the mean death rate for the five years 1942 - 1946.

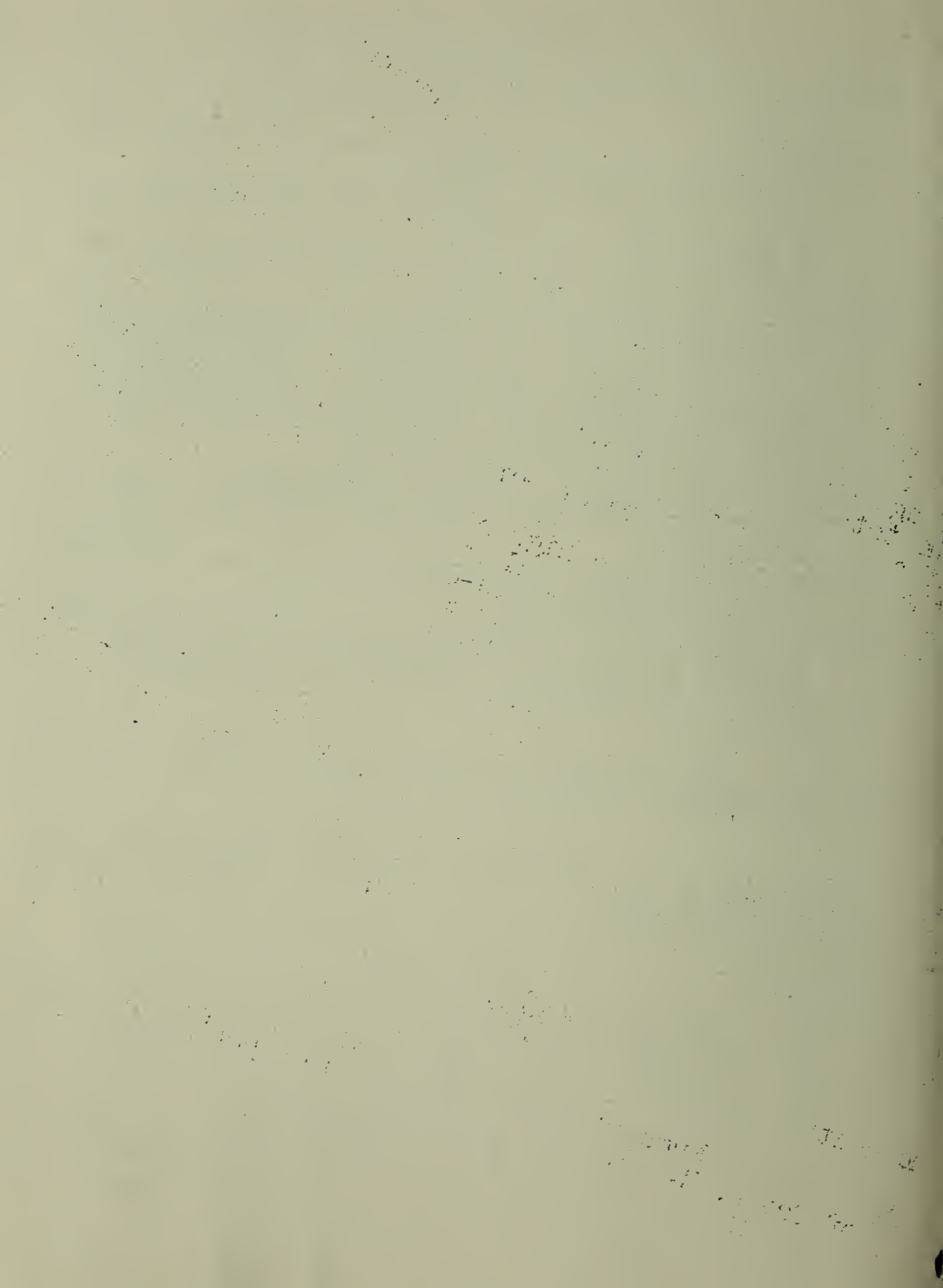


Analysis of the deaths according to age, causes and incidence, reveals

- (a) No death occurred of any child under 15 years of age.
- (b) 65.4% of the total deaths were of persons of 65 years of age or over.
47.6% of the total deaths were of persons of 70 years of age or over.
21.4% of the total deaths were of persons of 80 years of age or over.
- (c) Heart Disease gave rise to the highest number of deaths, i.e., 17, giving a total rate of 3.63 per 1000 of population. Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions and Malignant Disease each with 15 deaths and a rate of 3.21 were the next highest causes of death.
- (d) The Respiratory Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) death rate was 2.34 per 1000 of population.
- (e) The death rate from Tuberculosis was 0.64 per 1000 of population.
- (f) 32 or 38% of the deaths occurred in the first quarter of the year January and March each showing 12 deaths equivalent to an annual death rate of 30.7.

The following table gives a full analysis of the deaths according to cause.

Cause of Death.	Number of Deaths.		Death Rate per 1000 of pop'n.
	M.	F.	
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System.	1	2	0.64
Cancer of Uterus	-	1	
do. Stomach & Duodenum	1	1	3.21
do. Breast	-	2	
do. Other sites.	6	4	
Diabetes	1	1	0.42



Intra-cranial Lesions	11	4	15	3.21
Heart Disease	10	7	17	3.63
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	2	-	2	0.42
Bronchitis	5	5	10	2.13
Pneumonia	1	-	1	0.21
Ulcser of stomach or duodenum	2	-	2	0.42
Appendicitis	1	-	1	0.21
Other digestive diseases	-	2	2	0.42
Nephritis	1	5	6	1.28
All other causes	4	4	8	1.71

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

From the analysis of deaths you will note that no infant deaths have occurred during the year, thus showing the Infantile Mortality Rate to be NIL. This is the second occasion in recent years in which a Nil mortality rate has had to be recorded, the first being for the year 1942. The annual report for 1942 stated that from the records available it appeared to be the first occasion on which a nil infantile mortality rate had been recorded, and for this position to recur is very gratifying. In the year 1942 67 births were registered as against 64 in this present year under review.

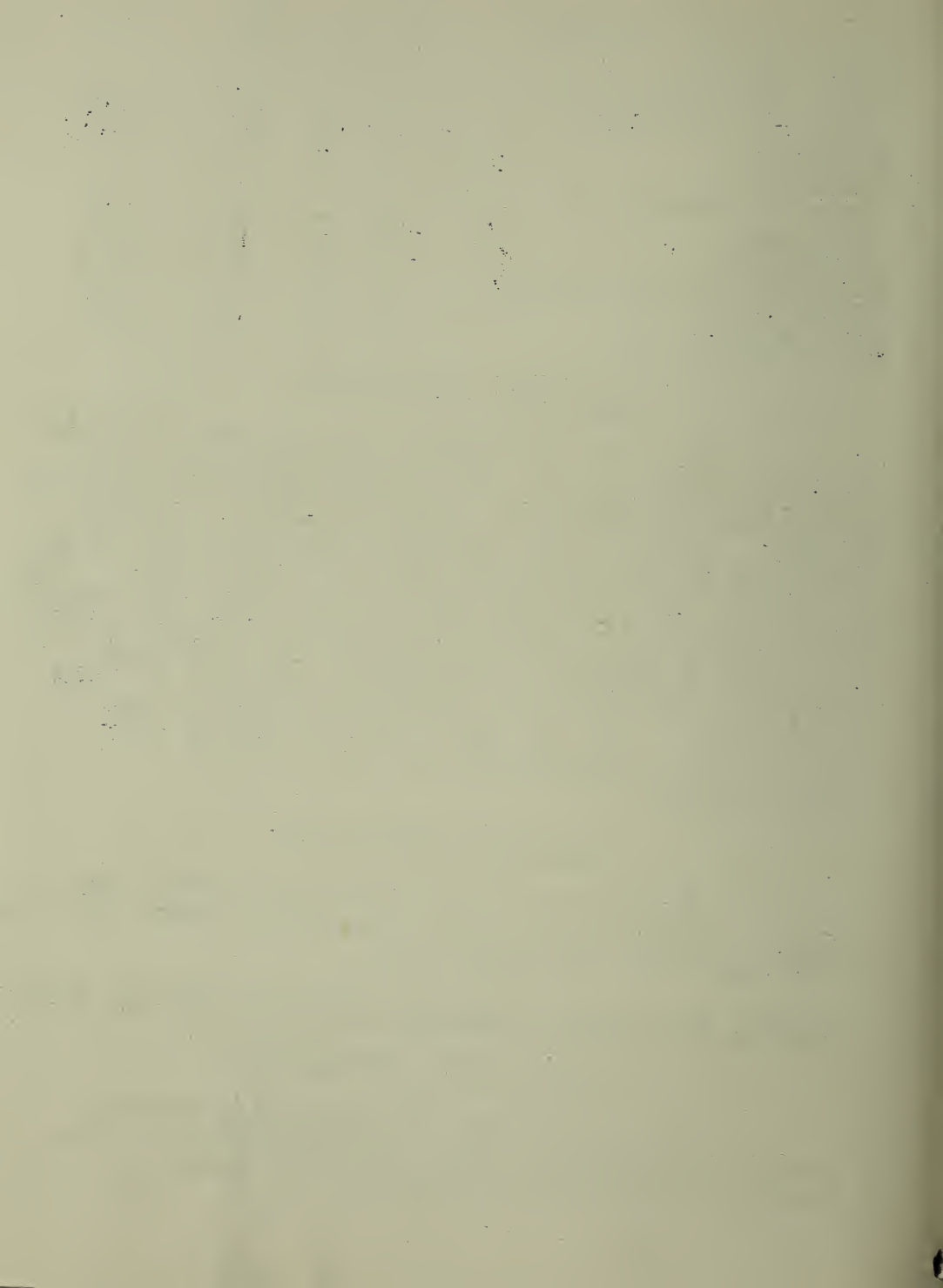
MATERNAL MORTALITY.

No maternal death occurred during the year. This is the fifth consecutive year showing a NIL maternal mortality rate.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The facilities of the Public Health Laboratory, Nelson, have been available to the local practitioners throughout the year.



AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Existing arrangements have been found efficient. The removal of infectious cases is undertaken by the Burnley Joint Hospital Board, whilst for accident, maternity or non-infectious cases, removal is undertaken by the Nelson Corporation under an agreement by your Council and the Nelson Local Authority.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

An arrangement exists between your Council and the Local Nursing Association for nursing assistance to be given, if requested, in cases of pneumonia, influenza and encephalitis lethargica. An annual contribution of £25 is paid by the Council to the Association, and a further payment made of one shilling per visit whilst the nurse is in attendance. During the year 11 visits were paid to a case of pneumonia, and 7 visits to a case of influenza.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

There are no Clinics or Treatment Centres under the direct control of the Local Authority, but the following Clinics or Centres are available to residents of Barrowford and are administered by the Lancashire County Council:-

Infant Welfare Centre.	Church St., Barrowford.
School Clinic.	Manchester Rd., Nelson.
Orthopaedic Clinic.	11, Carr Rd., Nelson.
Artificial Light and T.B. Dispensary.	64, Carr Rd., Nelson.
Veneral Diseases Centre.	Victoria Hospital, Burnley.

HOSPITAL PROVISION.

There are no hospitals in Barrowford, but the following hospitals in adjacent areas are available:-

General Medical and	Reedyford Hospital, Nelson.
Surgical.	Victoria Hospital, Burnley.
	Municipal Hospital, Burnley.
Maternity.	Fern Lea Maternity Home,
	Nelson.
	Hartley Maternity Hospital,
	Colne.

Increased demand on these two institutions by residents of Nelson and Colne have to a large extent precluded the admission of Barrowford patients.

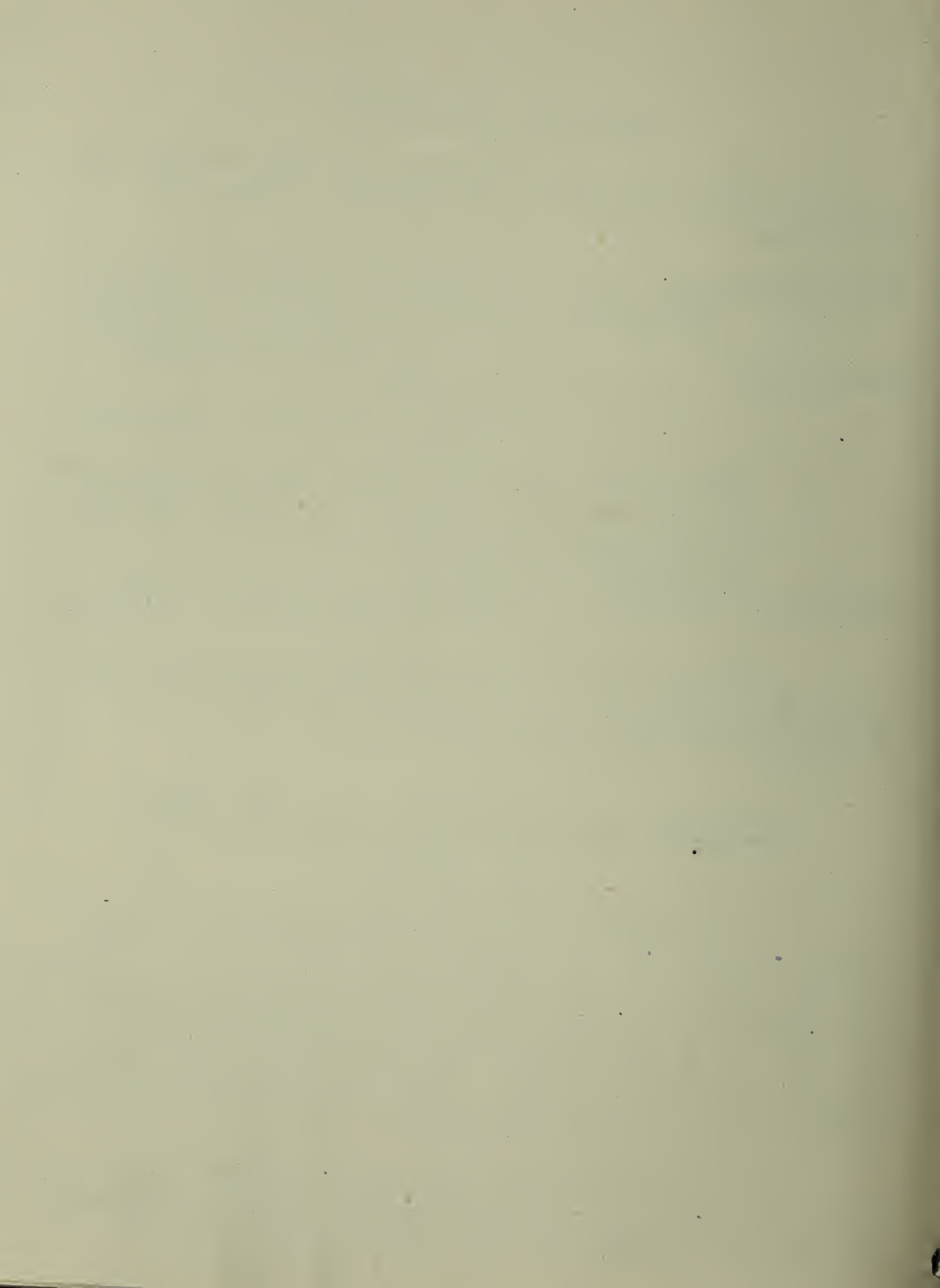
Puerperal Pyrexia.	Marsden Road Infectious
	Diseases Hospital, Burnley.

There is no institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate children and homeless children within the area.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply is derived from Nelson Corporation, and all houses in the built up area of the district are connected to the public mains. The approximate number of dwellinghouses served is 1586 with an estimated population of 4574. On the outskirts of the district where the public supply is not available there are 16 dwellinghouses with a private water supply.

Supervision of the water supply is carried out by the Water Engineer for the Borough of Nelson, control of the gathering ground is



exercised, and routine chemical and bacteriological examinations are carried out throughout the year, both of the raw water and the water going to supply, and it can be assured that the water supply of the area has been found satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The sewage works owned by the local authority are situate on the outskirts of the area, with a natural fall thereto from all parts. Treatment of the sewage is by automatic screening plant, primary and secondary settling tanks, percolating filters and settling humus tanks, whilst the effluent is discharged into Pendle Water. No new works of sewerage or sewage disposal have been undertaken during the year. There are several farms and a few houses on the outskirts of the area without drainage, due to the distance involved from the main sewers.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Supervision is exercised by the Ribble Joint Committee to control pollution.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION AT END OF 1947.

No. of privy middens.	Nil.
No. of pail closets.	22
No. of dry ashpits.	1
No. of movable ashbins.	1877
No. of houses on water carriage system.	1776
No. of fresh water closets.	565

11.

No. of waste water closets.	830
Conversions during 1947:-	
No. of waste water closets to fresh water closets.	11

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

House and trade refuse is collected weekly in a "Warrier Bantam" vehicle and disposed of by controlled tipping. Garbage is disposed by arrangement with the neighbouring authority for incineration. Cesspools and pail closets are emptied into carts and the night soil spread on to farm land. The work is carried out by direct labour under the control of your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING 1947.

No. of premises in general visited or inspected.	102
No. of defects or nuisances discovered	60
No. of nuisances abated.	60
No. of notices served: Informal	60
Statutory	1
No. of Legal Proceedings	Nil
No. of visits to infectious diseases	35

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

No action taken during the year.

CAMPING SITES.

There are no sites in the area used for camping purposes.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No special action has been taken with regard to smoke abatement. There are 8 factory and works chimneys in the district, but no official observations of the emission of smoke have been taken. Informal action has been taken, however, and the attention of owners called to smoke emission and this has resulted in an improvement. The time limit allowed for emission of black smoke is 10 minutes per hour.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are none in the Barrowford area.

DISINFECTION.

Only one house has been found to be infested, and this was treated with D.D.T. spray and fumigated with killgercide with satisfactory results. The work was carried out by the staff of the Health Department under the supervision of your inspector. No Council house was found to be infested.

SCHOOLS.

I am informed that the sanitary condition of the schools is good. The water supply, derived from Nelson Corporation, is satisfactory.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no registered offensive trades carried on in Barrowford.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

During the year improvements in the sanitary accommodation have been made at one mill.

There are 27 premises on the register to which Section 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7 of the Factory Act applies, and 27 inspections have been made by your inspector. 4 instances of unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences were found of which 3 had been referred to the Authority by H.M. Factory Inspector. By the end of the year one had been remedied.

OTHER PREMISES.

There are no premises coming within the following categories, Common Lodging Houses, Houses let in Lodgings, Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc., Underground Sleeping Rooms, or premises where Rag Flock is manufactured or sold. No inspection of Canal Boats is carried out.

HOUSING.

No. of new houses erected during the year:-

By the Local Authority	16 traditional permanent houses.
By other Local Authorities	2 traditional permanent houses.

At the end of the year there were 30 permanent houses in course of erection and a further 12 contemplated as part of the Authority's scheme. 84 inspections of dwellinghouses were made during the year and 56 were found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. Of these, 55 were rendered fit as a result of informal action, and one was dealt with by proceedings under the Public Health Acts, with satisfactory result.

Whilst there has been no investigation into cases of overcrowding, there is no doubt that overcrowding as defined by the Housing Act does exist and will continue to do so until the time comes when the supply of houses will meet the demand. At the end of the year there was still an appreciable waiting list of applicants for the Council houses.

Shortage of labour and materials still presents difficulties in having necessary repairs to property carried out, and in consequence deterioration becomes more pronounced.

All houses in the built up area are provided with internal water supply, but in some rows of houses which are supplied by a common $\frac{1}{2}$ " service pipe, the supply is not adequate, and this can only be overcome by installing a separate service pipe from the main to each house.

There are approximately 350 back-to-back houses in Barrowford, and these constitute the houses which are not provided with separate water closet or other adequate sanitary accommodation.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.MILK SUPPLY.

The register of dairymen and cowkeepers in the area is amended from time to time as changes occur, these changes, however, consisting of the transference of the business. There are at present, 24 dairy farms with an approximate number of 400 cows, and 9 retailers of milk who are now cowkeepers. Undesignated milk is produced on the majority of farms, but accredited milk and milk from tuberculin tested herds is produced at a small number of farms within the area. Licences for the production and retail of designated milk are issued by the Lancashire County Council. Inspection of all dairy herds is carried out under the direction of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

At one farmstead work has been carried out to improve the conditions of the cowsheds.

Action under the Food and Drugs Act is undertaken by the Lancashire County Council. Informal samples of milk have been taken during the year for testing at the Public Health Laboratory, Nelson, and included in the following particulars are also the results of the tests carried out on informal samples of milk purchased in Nelson and where the source of the milk has been a farmstead in Barrowford.

Analysis: No. of samples tested 55.
 No. found genuine 50.
 No. found with a slight deficiency of
 Milk fat 5.

Visible cleanliness: No. of samples tested 54.
 No. found satisfactory 54.

Bacteriological Examinations: Methylene Blue Test
 No. of samples tested 57.
 No. which satisfied the test 46.
 No. which did not satisfy the test 11.

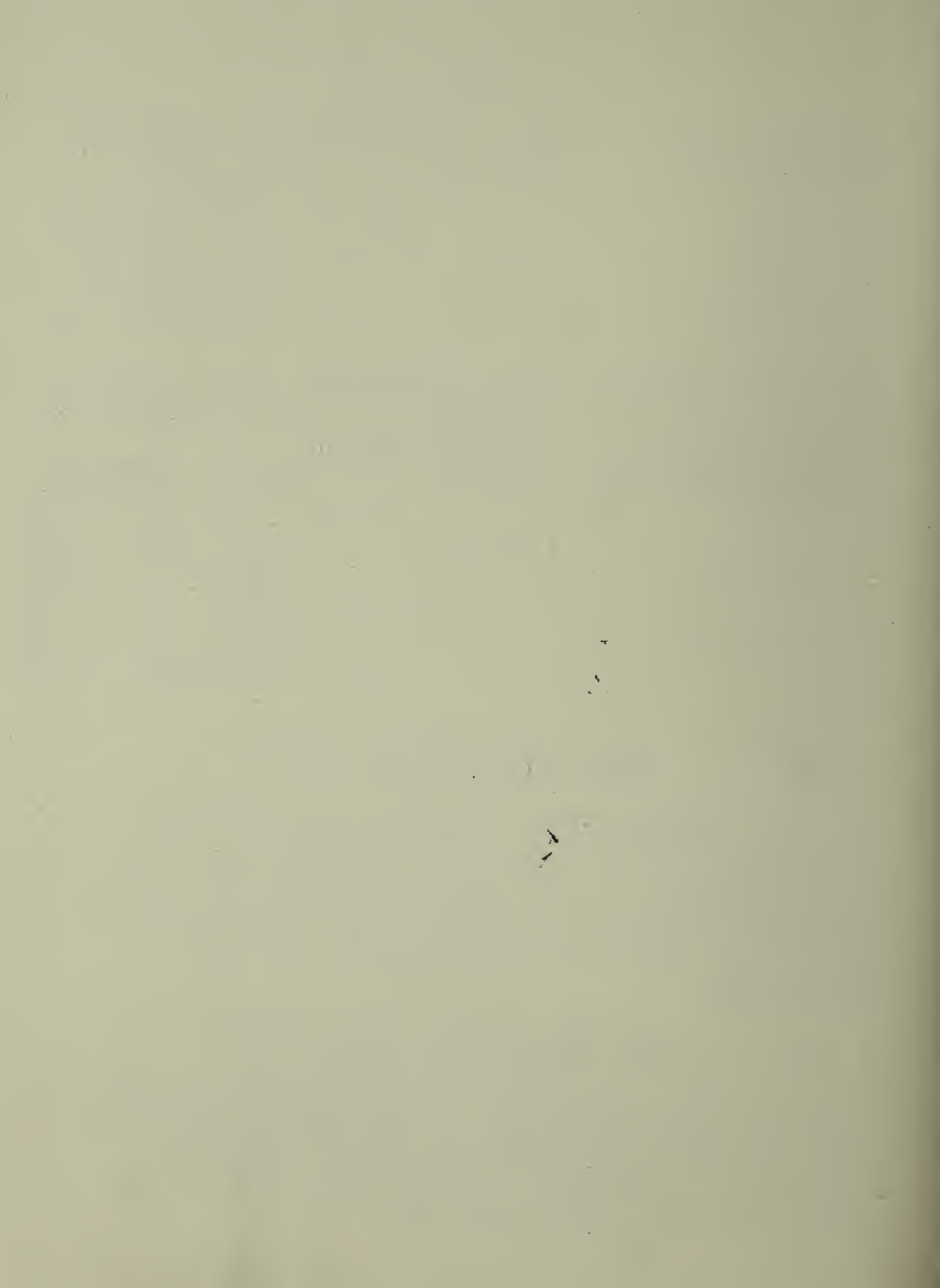
Coliform Test:	No. of samples tested	No. showing B. Coli absent in .01 c.c.	55	53
		No. showing B. Coli present in .01 c.c.		2
Tubercle Bacilli:	No. of samples tested	No. found to be negative	3	3
Resazurin Test - Keeping Quality:	No. of sample tested	No. found to be excellent	57	2
		Very good		20
		Good		21
		Fair		4
		Poor		1
		Very bad		9

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Centralised slaughtering is carried out at Colne Abattoirs. The Ministry of Food grant occasional Licences for the slaughter of pigs on farm premises, three having been granted during the year and these carcasses have been inspected. There has been no suspected case of food poisoning.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The Lancashire County Council administer the Food and Drugs Act in your area, and samples for analysis are taken by their officers at frequent intervals. There have been no prosecutions during the year.



PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Enquiries into notified cases of infectious disease are carried out by members of the Public Health staff of Nelson, this being an arrangement made between your Authority and the Local Authority of Nelson.

Barrowford being a constituent member of the Burnley Joint Hospital Board, the hospitals under their administration are available for patients from Barrowford where hospital treatment or isolation is imperative.

4 cases of Scarlet Fever, 23 of Measles, 1 of Pneumonia, 1 of Erysipelas, 7 of Whooping Cough, 3 of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 1 of Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis have been reported during the year. With the exception of measles which appeared to be fairly prevalent in the early months of the year, there does not appear to be any noteworthy facts regarding the incidence of infectious disease, all other cases being more or less of a sporadic nature.

Excluding tuberculosis only three patients were removed to hospital, these being 1 case of scarlet fever, 1 of measles with complications and 1 of whooping cough with complications.

Analysis of the cases according to age group is:-

[illegible]

DIPHTHERIA.

No cases have occurred during the year. A supply of diphtheria anti-toxin kept by the Nelson Authority at the Police Station, Nelson, is available if the necessity arises for patients in Barrowford.

Immunisation against diphtheria is carried out at the Infant Welfare Centre, no special sessions being held for the purpose, but treatment given as and when requested. I am informed by the Assistant County Medical Officer, Dr. E. Catlow, in charge of the Infant Welfare Centre, that 35 pre-school children and 1 school child have completed treatment during the year.

From the figures available it is estimated that at the end of 1947, 38.4% of the children under 5 years of age and 68.9% of the children over 5 but under 15 years of age have been protected by artificial immunisation.

The following table shows the number of children immunised year by year since the scheme was inaugurated in 1941.

Age in years on 31st December of the corresponding year	Number of children who have completed immunisation treatment each year from 1941 to 1947.						
	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
0	-	-	2	1	-	-	1
1	12	27	29	19	20	31	23
2	6	7	5	6	5	12	10
3	17	10	4	1	1	2	1
4	12	14	3	3	1	-	-
5	14	11	-	-	-	-	-
6	26	13	-	1	-	1	1
7	31	13	-	1	-	-	-
8	36	11	-	-	1	-	-
9	26	17	-	1	-	-	-
10	20	16	-	-	-	-	-
11	30	15	-	1	-	-	-
12	30	7	-	2	-	-	-
13	29	8	-	-	-	-	-
14	5	3	-	-	-	-	-
15 & over	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Total each yr.	294	173	43	36	29	46	36

At 31st December, 1947

Total immunised aged under 5 years	127
Total immunised aged 5 - 14 years	337
Total immunised aged 15 years and over	193

Grand total 657

BACTERIOLOGICAL AND PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS

The following specimens have been submitted for examination at the Public Health Laboratory, Nelson, relative to patients resident in Barrowford.

Throat swabs for		Sputum.	1.
diphtheria.	6.	Blood films.	2.
Urines.	5.	Milk deposits.	3.
Human tissue	3.		

DISINFECTION AFTER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

This is carried out by the staff of the Public Health Department, Nelson, under arrangements made by your Authority. Formalin vapour and spray is used for room disinfection, articles of bedding are disinfected by steam, and books, etc., are exposed to formalin vapour. The steam disinfector owned by Nelson Corporation is situated at the Destructor Works, Charles St., Nelson.

During the year 18 rooms have been disinfected (9 houses being concerned) and 14 articles of wearing apparel, 155 articles of bedding and 2 miscellaneous articles have been treated through the steam disinfector.

TUBERCULOSIS.

4 new cases of tuberculosis, 3 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary, have been notified during the year. 3 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis occurred, each case having been previously notified as suffering from the disease. These figures give an attack rate of 0.85 and a death rate of 0.64 per thousand of population in relation to tubercular disease.

At the end of the year there were on the

register for your area, 13 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis (9 males and 4 females) and 8 cases of tuberculosis other than pulmonary (2 males and 6 females).

No action has been necessary for wilful neglect or refusal to notify, nor is there any evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district, nor has any action been necessary under the Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations, 1925, relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade.

Details as to the age and sex of the new cases and the deaths from tuberculosis during the year are:-

Age periods.	New cases.			
	Respiratory.		Nonrespiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
35-45 years	1	1	-	-
45-55 years	1	-	-	1
Deaths.				
25-35 years	-	1	-	-
35-45 years	-	1	-	-
45-55 years	1	-	-	-

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Lancashire County Council is the Welfare Authority for your area and all work connected with this service is carried out by the County Staff.

No case of Puerperal Pyrexia or Ophthalmia Neonatorum has been notified during the year.

In the appendix you will find tables showing:-

- A. A table showing the increase or decrease in the vital statistics figures for Barrowford when compared to the previous year and the mean of the five years 1942 to 1946.
- B. The vital statistics for England and Wales and subdivisions of the country as supplied by the Registrar General, and to which have been added the corresponding figures for Barrowford and Nelson for comparative purposes.
- C. The attack rate for certain infectious diseases for the whole of the country and its subdivisions along with the Barrowford and Nelson corresponding figures.
- D. The Maternal Mortality Rate for England and Wales and the corresponding rate for Barrowford and Nelson.

	per 1000 estm. population.				Maternal mortality.		Rate of deaths under 1 yr. per 1000 live births.
	Live Birth Rate.	Crude Death Rate.	Death Rate from T. B. Resp. system.	Death Rate from Cancer	per 1000 live births.	per 1000 total live and still births.	
Mean of 5 yrs 1942 - 1946	12.5	15.0	0.26	2.81	2.98	2.89	41
Year 1946	11.9	16.0	0.21	3.03	nil	nil	54
Year 1947	13.6	17.9	0.64	3.20	nil	nil	nil
Increase or decrease in 1947 on :-							
above 5 yrs. mean	+ 1.1	+ 2.9	+ 0.38	+ 0.39	- 2.98	- 2.89	- 41
previous year	+ 1.7	+ 1.9	+ 0.43	+ 0.17	nil	nil	54

	Eng. and Wales	126 County Boro's and Great Towns inc. London	148 Towns pop. 25,000 to 50,000 1931 Census	London Adm. County	Nelson	B'ford
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Rates per 1,000 civilian population.

Live births	20.5x	23.3	22.2	22.7	20.1	13.6
Still Births	0.50x	0.62	0.54	0.49	0.33	0.00
Deaths All causes	12.0x	13.0	11.9	12.8	14.9	17.9
Typhoid & Ptyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping cough	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.00
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Influenza	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.08	0.00	0.00
Measles	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00

x = Rates per 1,000 total population.

Rates per 1,000 live births.

Deaths under 1 yr of age	41	47	36	37	40	0.00	33.
Deaths from Diarrhoea etc. under 2 yrs.	5.8	8.0	3.7	4.8	0.0	0.0	

+ average

Appendix C

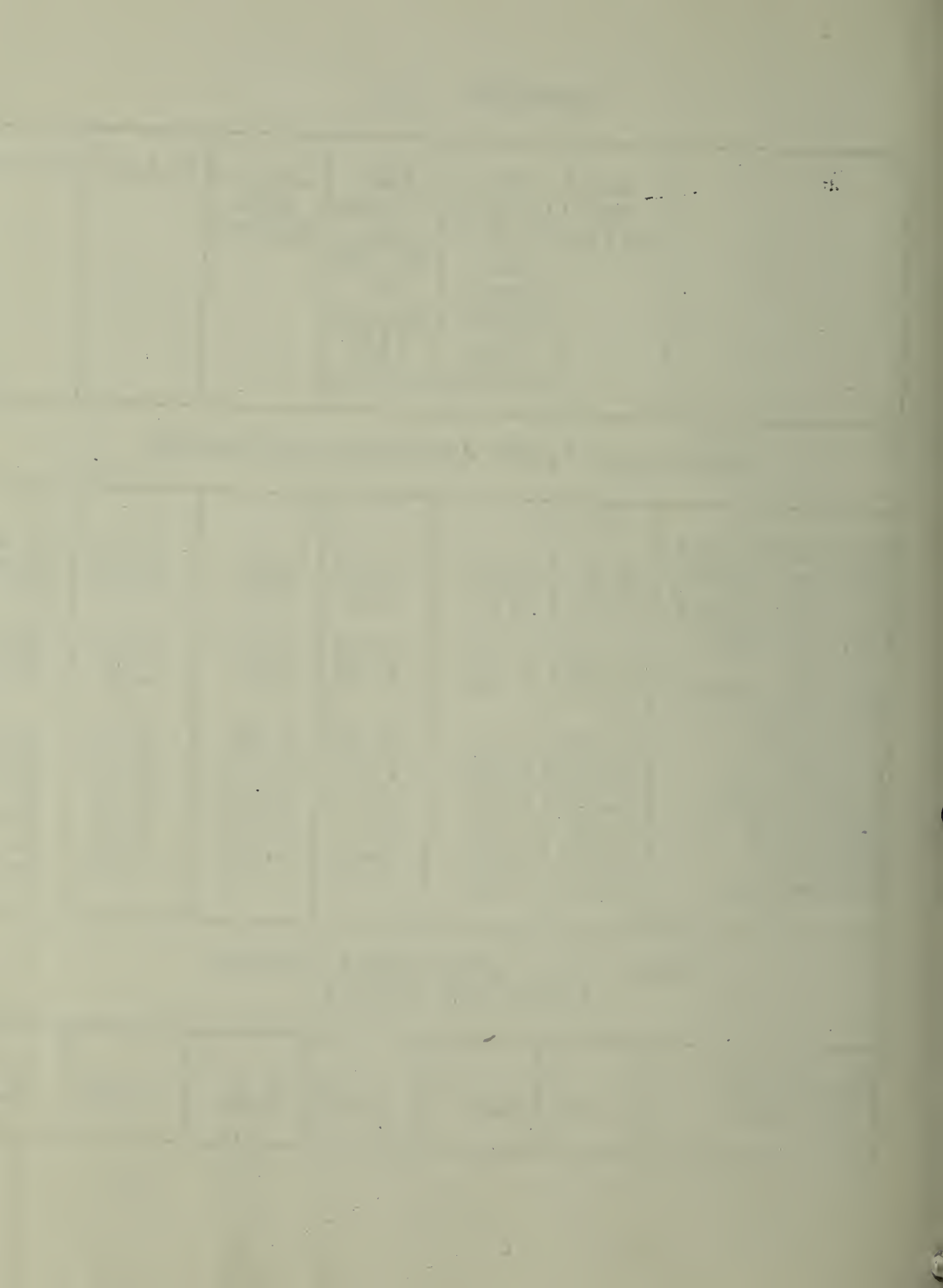
	Eng. and Wales	126 County Boro's and Great Towns inc. London	148 Towns pop. 25,000 to 50,000 1931 census	London Adm. County	Nelson	B'ford
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Rates per 1,000 civilian population.

Notifications						
Typhoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
P' typhd fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.00
Cerebro Spn fever	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.00
Scarlet fever	1.37	1.54	1.37	1.31	0.51	0.85
Whooping cough	2.22	2.41	2.02	2.80	3.50	1.49
Diphtheria	0.13	0.15	0.14	0.14	0.00	0.00
Erysipelas	0.19	0.21	0.18	0.22	0.09	0.21
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	9.41	9.13	9.58	5.29	7.30	4.91
Pneumonia	0.79	0.89	0.69	0.64	0.66	0.21

Rates per 1,000 total births.
(live and still).

Puerperal pyrexia	7.16	8.99	6.27	6.94	5.90	0.00
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Appendix D

Maternal mortality per 1,000 total births
(live and still)

	Abortion with sepsis	Abortion without sepsis	Puerperal Infections	Other causes
England & Wales	0.10	0.06	0.16	0.85
Nelson	0.00	0.00	1.47	0.00
Barrowford	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Abortion mortality per million women
aged 15 to 44 years.

	With sepsis	Without sepsis
England & Wales	9	5

